

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) An eight-cylinder engine in which when four cylinders are put into one cylinder group, two cylinder groups are arranged in a V-shaped configuration with fuel injection valves being provided for injecting fuel into the cylinders, respectively,

in case where those cylinders which belong to one of said two cylinder groups are referred to, from one end to the other end, as a first cylinder, a third cylinder, a fifth cylinder and a seventh cylinder, and those cylinders which belong to the other of said two cylinder groups are referred to, from one end to the other end, as a second cylinder, a fourth cylinder, a sixth cylinder and an eighth cylinder, characterized by comprising:

a first valve drive unit for driving those fuel injection valves to open and close which are provided on the first cylinder, the fourth cylinder, the sixth cylinder and the seventh cylinder by energizing these fuel injection valves; and

a second valve drive unit for driving those fuel injection valves to open and close which are provided on the second cylinder, the third cylinder, the fifth cylinder and the eighth cylinder by energizing these fuel injection valves.